REMARKS

I.   Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated August 21, 2007, the claims have not been amended. Claims 1-36 remain in the application. Re-examination and re-consideration of the application is requested.

II.   Non-Art Rejections

In paragraphs (3)-(4) of the Office Action, claims 1-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. However, subject to 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, claims 1-36 would be allowable over the prior art of record.

Applicants respectfully disagree with and traverse the rejection.

Applicants note that paragraph [0069] of the application provides as follows:

> [0069]   In addition to the above, the microprocessor's 602 nonvolatile memory component 606 and the nonvolatile memory component containing the hidden number 614 may use the same physical and logical address ranges since they are controlled and programmed by separate entities. Alternatively, the two memory components 606 (and component 606 containing hidden number 614) may use separate address ranges as the system designer sees fit. This helps obscure use of the memory containing the hidden number 614 by potential attackers making it more difficult to determine the memory map and usage of code segments within the CAM 512.

Thus, both memory components are controlled by separate entities (the microprocessor 602 controls one and the custom logic block 612 controls the other). The Office Action asserts that

> …a memory address referenced by the microprocessor read/write operation from/to one memory component can be found in the other memory component.

Applicants respectfully disagree with such an assertion. Since the microprocessor cannot access the protected non-volatile memory component, it cannot be "found" by the microprocessor. As set forth in the claims, the protected nonvolatile memory component is read only and access to the component is isolated. Further, the claims provide that the protected component is not accessible via the system bus and access is limited to the custom logic block. In this regard, a separate entity controls the protected component.

The Office Action continues and asserts:

> However, the disclosure fails to teach how the system bus determines which memory component a memory address is associated with.

-10-

G&C 109.69-US-01

Applicants disagree with and traverse such an assertion. Namely, it is well understood that a system bus does not contain any knowledge. The system bus is just a conduit for information to be exchanged. Accordingly, the system bus does not "determine" anything.

As claimed and set forth paragraph [0069], the physical and logical address ranges used by both memory components are the same. Thus, since the same ranges are used by both components, it is more difficult to determine the map and usage of code segments within the CAM. Further, one of skill in the art would know how to make and use separate entities to control the different memory components using the same physical and logical address space as claimed. In this regard, the custom logic block can determine the type of memory request it receives and conduct the appropriate action based on the request.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the protected nonvolatile memory isn't connected to the system bus so there is no conflict - the custom logic block handles the appropriate request.

Thus, Applicants submit that the claimed invention is clearly and sufficiently enabled. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

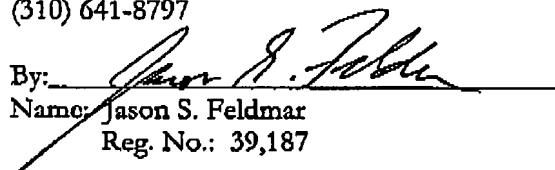-11-

G&C 109.69-US-01

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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G&C 109.69-US-01

-12-

G&C 109.69-US-01